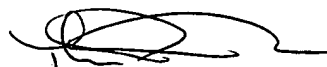


### REMARKS

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Applicant hereby corrects the Preliminary Amendment submitted with the Request for Continued Examination of October 6, 2003. Specifically, Applicants have changed the claim status identifiers utilized in the amendment. Additionally, as the objected to Preliminary Amendment did not present any amendments to the specification, Applicants respectfully present that the indication that the "Amendments to the specification" caused the Preliminary Amendment to be non-compliant is in error. Accordingly, prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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